

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

DECEMBER 25,  
1915

The "Shopping Center."

## Our Gratitude

—for this most successful of all our Christmas seasons extends alike to our patrons and our employees.

### We Wish Them All a Very Merry Xmas

—and here's hoping that each day of the coming year will be to them one of happiness and prosperity.

### Miller & Rhoads

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS TO STOCKS OF NEW RAILROAD LINE

**Mass-Meeting Is Called for January 8 to Further Interests of Rapahannock Road.**

Subscriptions to the stock of the Richmond, Rapahannock and Northern Railway from volunteer stockholders aggregated \$10,000 yesterday. These subscriptions were entirely from business men, who regard the road as a good investment. As yet little effort has been made to place the bonds of the road.

Bonds of the new road to the extent of \$100,000 must be sold within the next few weeks, and this must be accomplished before actual construction work is started. There is little doubt that the required amount will be raised as the business men of the city are thoroughly satisfied with the project. The road has been proposed by the Chamber of Commerce and the Retail Merchants' Association.

Those interested in the future of the road have called a mass-meeting which will be held in the Chamber of Commerce Building January 8. Citizens from the counties through which the line will pass will also attend the meeting, when it is expected that plans for financing the road will be made.

#### WILL TEACH AGRICULTURE

**Henrico Supervisors Make Initial Application at Request of School Authorities.**

The movement to establish a school in Hanover County for agricultural education received impetus yesterday in the unanimous endorsement of the body by the State Board of Supervisors, who agreed to consider the bill introduced in the Senate to appropriate \$100,000 for the purpose. The committee having the movement in charge, composed of J. B. Dowden representing the school authorities, Lewis D. Ellis for the Citizens' and Farmers' Union, and H. F. Ferguson representing the Farmers' Citizen Association, waited on the board. State Senator Julian Gunz was spokesman for the committee.

#### ICE CREAM FOR CONVICTS

"Santa Claus" Paid Visit to "Big Top" With Motor-Truck Load of Freezes.

Mr. Bill was reluctantly released from the state penitentiary by Mayor James W. Woods yesterday. Bill is the individual who is being indoctrinating Santa Claus to visit Richmond for the last week. He has been serving his time at the state prison and is located in the city's newest prison, in a room one of 500 feet square, he spends up in the "Big Top" to help Major Woods to his task. Woods, the young man, has not developed the courage to go back home with him, but he has been doing with him his best to impress him with the "benefits" with frosts and ice cream from the "Polar Express" photo and his insistence that the convicts in the jail be fed with ice cream and fruits the last week of their confinement.

Major Woods, who is a youth of 18, has been in touch with his boys, the inmates of the jail. In fact, there were 500 visitors to the jail yesterday, including children, who were working in various ways on the roads or at the State prison.

**Murred in Washington.**  
Miss Edith Murred, widow of Mr. L. Morris, and her son, George, were married in Washington yesterday, according to information received from the Richmond. The bride is the daughter of the late George Morris, who died in 1908, in the Atlantic City, N. J., where he had gone to the Atlantic Ocean, South Richmond.

#### AMUSEMENTS

"The Chocolate Soldier."—The management of the Colonial Theatre here some four or five times recently, entrancing again last night, and in spite of the fact that the audience, the first by the present company, was little more than a drugged rehearsal. Still, the company was composed for the most part of men and women whose talent justifies the assertion that the company will develop into a well-rounded whole after a few more performances. George Sullivan, for example, is a whole nucleus in himself. There will be two more performances to-day.

To Wish You  
A Very  
Merry Christmas

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK  
of Richmond, Virginia

## RAILROADS ARE TAXED TO UTMOST CAPACITY

Incoming and Outgoing Traffic 50  
Per Cent Heavier Than  
Last Year.

#### POST-OFFICE REACHES CREST

Outgoing Mail Have Been Worked  
Rapidly.—Twenty-seven Wagons  
Will Deliver Parcel Post Packages  
To-Day.

Railroads operating in and out of Richmond were taxed to the extreme yesterday in handling the vast amount of Christmas traffic, and while some of the trains were a few minutes late the service rendered by the roads as a whole was equal to any seen in this city under similar conditions in recent years. All trains in and out of the city carried from two to four extra passenger cars, which were well filled, while several of the "crack" trains were run in two sections.

Reservations had been made by many at the local passenger offices several days in advance, yet there was a steady throng pouring in these offices during the day. Travel this year is fully 50 per cent heavier than last year, it was stated last night, and even greater than in 1912. There was also a large increase over last year in the amount of mail and express matter handled, and the post-office and the express companies found it necessary to employ large additional forces to handle the traffic.

#### POST-OFFICE REACHES

#### CREST OF WAVE OF MAIL

At the post-office it was stated that the crest of the incoming mails was reached between 6 and 7 o'clock last night. The outgoing mails have been worked up rapidly, and at a late hour last night there was little matter other than the usual volume. The carriers will make only one delivery today, but the parcel post wagons of the department, of which there are twenty-seven, will be in operation throughout the day, and the parcels will be delivered in the residential sections of the city.

At the railroad offices yesterday it was stated that traffic the entire week had been unusually heavy, but that Thursday and yesterday every train had been simply packed. From available information there was fully as much travel into the city as there was outgoing.

## ORDERLY CROWDS THROG CITY'S GREAT WHITE WAY

No Disorder Occurs, and Police Report Quiet Christmas Eve.

#### ONLY TWO MINOR ACCIDENTS

Broad Street Crowd on Christmas  
Eve Night Is Smaller Than in Previous  
Years.—Chief Werner Comments  
on Good Order.

The annual Christmas Eve parade on Broad Street was conspicuous last night by its absence. The throng was smaller than that which went on its last shopping tour in the afternoon, and was no larger than the usual Saturday night crowd. The noise and shouting, blowing of horns and explosion of firecrackers incident to the celebration were not even an echo of what Richmond has been used to in other years.

True, a few youths attempted to revive the holiday spirit among those they met, but there was never a sign of response. The small crowd seemed to be imbued with a spirit of activity. Most of the people went home, others went to the theaters and afterwards to the hotels for supper parties. But the hotels had not made the usual preparations for the holiday throngs, and that helped to dampen ardor in the later hours. At midnight Richmond was normally quiet, and the police who had been detailed in full strength for duty had relatively little to do.

Major Werner said it was the quietest Christmas Eve he had ever known. There was no disorder, and, considering the occasion, very little drunkenness. The two shootings which occurred early in the evening had no way connected with such celebrations as there was. The majority of arrests were for drunkenness and minor disorders.

With the usual vigilance, Major Werner had made every precaution to handle the expected crowds. Men were stationed on every block on Broad Street from Ninth to Smithfield, and additional traffic officers were placed on the more dangerous cross streets. There were two near accidents. A messenger boy rode his bicycle into an automobile on Ninth and Broad Streets, and fell lengthwise underneath. The driver stopped in time and the boy crawled out unharmed. His wheel was smashed and a policeman gave him half a dollar. A negro fell from a car, but was not injured. That was the extent of the excitement up to midnight.

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